

CLAIMS:

1. A display apparatus for displaying a sequential presentation of words from a section of text, comprising:

- a) a display device; and
- b) a display controller for controlling the image displayed by the display device;

wherein the controller is operable to control the display device to generate an image comprising:

- (a) a first region in which words are presented sequentially one after another in time; and
- (b) a thumbnail view of the section of the text from which the words in the first region are being read;

and wherein the thumbnail view is such as to indicate at least an approximate location within the thumbnail view of the text currently presented in the first region.

2. The display apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the display controller is operable to present words, in turn, in said first region, at a controlled presentation rate.
3. The display apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the display controller is operable to generate the display image with the first region maintained at a generally fixed position within the display image.
4. The display apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the display controller is operable to generate an indicator within the thumbnail view, the position of the indicator corresponding to the position in the section of text of the word currently displayed in the first region.
5. The display apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the display controller is operable to move the position of the indicator as the sequence of words in the first region advances.

6. The display apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the indicator is a cursor.
7. The display apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the display controller is operable to maintain the thumbnail view at a generally fixed position within the display.
8. The display apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the display controller is operable to generate the thumbnail view to be larger than the first region, the thumbnail view being located in a first display pane of the image, and wherein said first region is located in a second display pane of the image in front of said first pane, said first region overlapping the thumbnail view.
9. The display apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the display controller is operable to control the position of the thumbnail view relative to the position of said first region, such that the relative position of the thumbnail view is indicative of the location in said section of text of the word currently displayed in said first region.
10. The display apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the display controller is operable to move the position of the thumbnail view relative to said first region as the sequence of words presented in said first region is advanced.
11. The display apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the display controller is operable to maintain said first region at a generally fixed position within the displayed image.

12. A method of generating a display of a sequential presentation of words from a section of text, the method comprising:

(a) generating a first display region in which words are presented sequentially one after another in time; and

5 (b) generating a thumbnail view of the section of text from which the words in the first region are being read, the thumbnail view being such as to indicate at least an approximate location within the thumbnail view of the text currently being displayed in the first display region.

10 13. The method according to claim 12, wherein the sequence of words presented in the first display region is advanced at a controlled presentation rate.

14. The method according to claim 12, further comprising displaying an indicator in the thumbnail view to indicate the location in the section of text of the word currently displayed in said first display region.
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15. The method according to claim 14, further comprising moving the indicator in the thumbnail view as the sequence of words presented in the first display region is advanced.

16. The method according to claim 12, further comprising generating the thumbnail view to be larger than the first display region, the thumbnail view being located in a first display pane, and the first display region being located in a second display pane in front of the first display pane, the first display region overlapping the thumbnail view.
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17. The method according to claim 16, further comprising controlling the position of the thumbnail view relative to the first display region, such that the relative position of the thumbnail view is indicative of the location in said section of text of the word currently displayed in the first display region.
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18. The method according to claim 17, further comprising moving the position of the thumbnail view relative to the first display region as the sequence of words presented in the first region is advanced.

5 19. In a display system for displaying a word sequence from a section of text, the words being displayed in sequence one after another in time, the improvement comprising a display of a thumbnail view of said section text, the thumbnail view indicating the position within said section of text of the word currently displayed in said sequence.

10 20. The display system according to claim 19, wherein the display system is a rapid sequential visual presentation type display system.